

**REMARKS****Status of Claims**

Claims 1-9, 14-18, 20, 26-39, 41 and 44-50 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer; claims 10, 11, 19, 23-25, 40 and 42 have been amended; and new claim 51 has been added. Accordingly, claims 10-13, 19, 21-25, 40, 42, 43 and 51 are pending.

**Title and Abstract**

The Title and Abstract have been amended are required by the Examiner.

**35 U.S.C. §103**

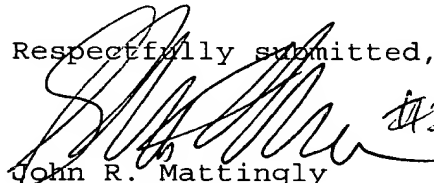
Claims 1-9, 14-18, 20, 26-29, 35-39, 47 and 49-50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugita et al in view of Tsutsui et al. Claims 30-34, 44, 46 and 48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103a) as being unpatentable over Sugita in view of Tsutsui et al as applied to claims 17, 35 and 47 and further in view of Brohoff et al. Finally, claims 41-45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugita et al in view of Brohoff et al. The rejected claims have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby rendering moot the foregoing rejections under 35 §103(a).

Claims 10, 12, 19, 23, 24, 25, 40 and 42 have been rewritten in independent form and therefore should be allowed. Claims 12, 13, 21, 22 and 43 are now each dependent on an independent claim that should be allowed and therefore should also be allowed. Claim 42, which was indicated as being allowable and was multiply dependent on claims 35 or 36, has been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of claim 35. New claim 51 has been added to present the invention originally set forth in the combination of claim 42, intermediate claim 36 and base claim 35.

#### Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

 #34,663  
John R. Mattingly  
Registration No. 30,293  
Attorney for Applicants

MATTINGLY, STANGER & MALUR  
1800 Diagonal Road, Suite 370  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314  
(703) 684-1120  
Date: May 27, 2004